

## Message Text

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46

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 ISO-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-11 FMC-04 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00

DLOS-07 SWF-02 L-03 H-03 EUR-25 EA-11 ARA-16 AGR-20

INT-08 ACDA-19 OMB-01 CIEP-03 CEA-02 JUSE-00 SCI-06

FEAE-00 IO-14 PM-07 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /272 W

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R 281136Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 01

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMCONSULATE BANJUL

MCONSUL CASABLANCA 146

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 6950

PASS: COMMERCE, NMFS, FOREIGN FISHERIES

DEPT FOR S/FNW-COA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BFIS, XY, MO, MR, SG, GA

SUBJ: JOINT FISHING VENTURES-NW AFRICA

1. A SLOW PROLIFERATION OF JOINT FISHING VENTURES  
WITH NORTHWEST AFRICAN COASTAL COUNTRIES HAS BE-  
COME A DELUGE DURING THIS CALENDAR YEAR. FROM PRESS  
RELEASES, AND OTHER COMMUNICATION MEDIA THERE HAS  
BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT APPROXIMATELY 31 JOINT VENTURES  
ARE IETHER UNDER DISCUSSION OR ALREADY CONSUMATED  
WITH FOUR NW AFRICAN NATIONS. BECAUSE OF THE CON-  
FIDENTIALITY OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS IT IS POSSIBLE  
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THE NUMBER OF JOINT VENTURES COULD BE MUCH GREATER.

2. THE FOUR COUNTRIES ARE MOROCCO, MAURITANIA, SENEGAL AND GAMBIA. MOROCCO PRODUCED OVER 300,000 TONS OF FISH LAST YEAR BUT CONSIDERS ITSELF AN UNDERVELOPED NATION IN RELATION TO ITS OFFSHORE RESOURCES. MAURITANIA'S OWN FISHERIES ARE MINISCULE, BUT THE LACK OF AN INTERNAL INFRASTRUCTURE IS SLOWLY BEING REMEDIED THROUGH LOANS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE TALENT AND MATERIAL PROVIDED THROUGH JOINT VENTURES. SENEGAL IS QUITE PROUD OF THE STEADY CLIMB IN ITS OWN FISH PRODUCTION TO 250,000 TONS/YEAR, BUT ALSO REALIZES ITS POTENTIAL IS MUCH GREATER. GAMBIA'S ARTISINAL FISHERY IS SLOWLY EXPANDING BUT IT HAS NOT HAD ANY INDUSTRIAL FISHERY UNTIL FOREIGN FISHING COMPANIES MOVED INTO THE COUNTRY IN RECENT YEARS. THOUGH IT HAS A SMALL COASTLINE ITS KNOWN OFFSHORE RESORCES HAVE NOT BEEN EXPLOITED TO GAMBIA'S BENEFIT.

3. TWO COUNTRIES, FRANCE AND SPAIN HAVE BEEN WORKING THE REGION FROM LOCAL SHORE BASES FOR MANY YEARS AND JAPAN HAS HAD NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS WITH MAURITANIA FOR SEVERAL YEARS. HOWEVER, THE RECENT UNILATERAL EXPANSIONS OF FISHING ZONES HAS CURTAILED THE FISHING ACTIVITIES OF THE LARGE FOREIGN FLEET WITH HAS BEEN BUILDING UP FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS IN THE CANARY ISLANDS. THIS FACT HAS STIMULATED THEIR INTEREST TO FORM JOINT VENTURES SO THEY CAN CONTINUE WORKING IN THIS RICH AREA. SOME OF THE LARGER UNITS OF THIS FLEET HAVE BEEN FORCED TO FISH OFF ANGOLA AND SOUTH AFRICA TO KEEP THE VESSELS OCCUPIED, ALTHOUGH THE EXTRA TIME INVOLVED TO GO TO SW AFRICA FROM NW AFRICA AND RETURN IS A DETRACTANT. COUNTRIES FROM CENTRAL WEST AFRICA ARE ALSO ANXIOUS TO FISH IN THIS AREA BECAUSE DEMAND FOR FISH IS INCREASING IN THEIR COUNTRIES WHILE THEIR RESOURCES ARE BEING DEPLETED FROM OVERFISHING. FURTHER INCENTIVE WAS PROVIDED DURING THE MARCH 1974, CEEFAC SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING IN DAKAR, SENEGAL WHEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NW AFRICAN COUNTRIES EMPHASIZED THEIR INTEREST IN FORMING JOINT VENTURES.

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4. JOINT FISHING VENTURES ARE ALREADY NEGOTIATED OR UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

MOROCCO: BELGIUM, CANADA, FRANCE, JAPAN, KUWAIT,  
SOUTH KOREA, SPAIN, U.S., USSR

MAURITANIA: ALGERIA, BULGARIA, CUBA, FRANCE,  
GHANA, GREECE, IVORY COAST, JAPAN

NIGERIA, NORWAY, ROMANIA, SPAIN,  
SWEDEN, USSR

SENEGAL: FRANCE, GHANA, IVORY COAST, NIGERIA, USSR

GAMBIA: GHANA, JAPAN, USSR  
SMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 28 AUG 1974  
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